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have

verb | \ˈhæv, (h)əv, v; in "have to" meaning "must" usually ˈhɑf\

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Examples: HAVE in a Sentence ▾

Definition of HAVE

had \ˈhəd, (h)əd, d\; **having** \ˈhɑ-viŋ\; **has** \ˈhɑz, (h)əz, z, s; in "has to" meaning "must" usually ˈhɑs\

transitive verb

- 1
 - a : to hold or maintain as a possession, privilege, or entitlement • they *have* a new car • I *have* my rights
 - b : to hold in one's use, service, regard, or at one's disposal • the group will *have* enough tickets for everyone • we don't *have* time to stay
 - c : to hold, include, or contain as a part or whole • the car *has* power brakes • April *has* 30 days
- 2 : to feel obligation in regard to —usually used with an infinitive with *to* • we *have* things to do • *have* a deadline to meet
- 3 : to stand in a certain relationship to • *has* three fine children • we will *have* the wind at our backs
- 4
 - a : to acquire or get possession of : **OBTAIN** • these shoes are the best to be *had*
 - b : **RECEIVE** • She asked if he *had* any news.
 - c : **ACCEPT** • so burnt no one would *have* a piece; *specifically* : to accept in marriage • could find no one who would *have* him
 - d : to copulate with • claims to have *had* many women
- 5
 - a : to be marked or characterized by (a quality, attribute, or faculty) • both *have* red hair • *has* a way with words
 - b : **EXHIBIT, SHOW** • *had* the gall to refuse
 - c : **USE, EXERCISE** • *have* mercy on us
- 6
 - a : to experience especially by submitting to, undergoing, or suffering • I *have* a cold
 - b : to make the effort to perform (an action) or engage in (an activity) • *have* a look at that cut
 - c : to entertain in the mind • *have* an opinion
- 7
 - a : to cause or command to do something —used with the infinitive without *to* • *have* the children stay
 - b : to cause to be in a certain place or state • *has* people around at all times
- 8 : **ALLOW** • we'll *have* no more of that
- 9 : to be competent in • *has* only a little French
- 10
 - a : to hold in a position of disadvantage or certain defeat • we *have* him now
 - b : to take advantage of : **TRICK, FOOL** • been *had* by a partner
- 11 : **BEAR** 3a • *have* a baby
- 12 : to partake of • *have* dinner • *have* a piece
- 13 : **BRIBE, SUBORN** • can be *had* for a price

auxiliary verb

- 1 —used with the past participle to form the present perfect, past perfect, or future perfect • *has* gone home • *had* already eaten • will *have* finished dinner by then
- 2 : to be compelled, obliged, or required —used with an infinitive with *to* or *to* alone • we *had* to go • do what you *have* to • it *has* to be said

—had better or had best
: would be wise to • *had better* go to bed

—have at

: to go at or deal with : **ATTACK** • like two boxers *having at* each other

—**have coming**

: to deserve or merit what one gets, benefits by, or suffers • he *had* that *coming*

—**have done**

: **FINISH, STOP** • wish you would *have done* before I go mad

—**have done with**

: to bring to an end : have no further concern with • let us *have done with* name-calling

—**have had it**

1 : to have had or have done all one is going to be allowed to • He's been cheating me for years but now he's *had it*.

2 : to have experienced, endured, or suffered all one can • Her old beater *has* finally *had it*.

—**have it**

: **ASSERT, CLAIM** • rumor *has it* that he was drunk

—**have it in for**

: to intend to do harm to

—**have it out**

: to settle a matter of contention by discussion or a fight • thinks they just need to *have it out*

—**have none of**

: to refuse to have anything to do with • We will *have none of* that.

—**have one's eye on**

1 a : to look at

b : to watch constantly and attentively

2 : to have as an objective • *has her eye on* a little cottage in the country

—**have to do with**

1 : to deal with

• the story *has to do with* real people —Alice M. Jordan

2 : to have a specified relationship with or effect on

• the size of the brain *has nothing to do with* intelligence —Ruth Benedict

See [have](#) defined for English-language learners

See [have](#) defined for kids

Examples of HAVE in a Sentence

Do they *have* a new car?

You can *have* it until I get back.

She *has* a red bike, and I *have* a blue one.

She got another part-time job and now she *has* two jobs.

I'm looking for the newspaper. Do you *have* it?

He *had* the newspaper right in his hand.

I used to *have* a necklace like that, but I lost it.

She used to share a room with her sister, but now she *has* her own room.

Have they *got* a new car?

We've *got* things *to do*.